

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 DRC-01 /098 W
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R 100806Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1641

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4986

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN, CB, TH

SUBJ: TERRILL COMMENTS ON EAST ASIA

1. ROSS TERRILL, AUSTRALIAN PROFESSOR AT HARVARD WHO IS CLOSE CONFIDANT OF PRIMIN WHITLAM, INTERCEPTED ME AT SYDNEY AIRPORT SEPTEMBER 8 ENROUTE TO CANBERRA FROM BRISBANE. FRESH FROM HIS TRIP TO PRC AND SEA, TERRILL HAD A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS OF NOTE. BRIEFLY:

2. PRC: TERRILL DETECTED NO FALL-OFF IN PRC DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US, EVEN THOUGH PEKING SEEMS UNWILLING TO PLAY A ROLE IN PROMOTING A SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. CHANG WEN CHIN TOLD HIM THAT COLONIALISM, CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM AND SOCIAL IMPERIALISM HAVE BEEN THREE SCOURGES OF ASIA. IN RESPONSE TO TERRILL'S QUESTION, CHANG AFFIRMED THAT HE HAD SET THESE FORTH IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, OBSERVING THAT THE CHINESE HAD BEEN SLOW IN GRASPING THAT SOCIAL IMPERIALISM HAD REPLACED CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM AS THE THREAT TO CHINA AND ASIA.

3. NORTH KOREA: NORTH KOREA SEEMS TO BE MODIFYING
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ITS VIEWS TOWARDS USG. ONE EVIDENCE WAS KIM IL-SUNG'S

STATEMENT TO AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENT BURCHETT TO THE
EFFECT THAT DR. KISSINGER "IS A MAN WITH WHOM WE CAN
DEAL". NORTH KOREA IS INCREASINGLY ALIENATED FROM
THE USSR, AS IT MOVES CLOSER TO PRC.

4. THAILAND: THAI LEADERS EXHIBITED FAR LESS CONCERN
OVER PRC AS IN PREVIOUS TRIPS TERRILL HAD MADE TO
THAILAND. FOR EXAMPLE, THESE LEADERS NO LONGER SEE
PRC ROAD COMPLEX IN NORTH LAOS AS DIRECTED AGAINST
THAILAND, BUT RATHER TO ACHIEVE INFLUENCE AND BARGAINING
LEVERAGE FOR CHINA IN NORTH LAOS.

5. CAMBODIA: TERRILL DOES NOT FORESEE ANY EARLY FALL OF
LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND BELIEVES CURRENT UNRESOLVED
SITUATION COULD PERSIST FOR LONG TIME. HE REGARDS
SIHANOUK AS A KEY FACTOR IN A CAMBODIAN CEASE-FIRE
SETTLEMENT ALTHOUGH SIHANOUK HAS NO FUTURE IN CAMBODIA.
GREEN

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NNN

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